

CLAIMS

1. A method for providing a line identifier to a service provider, comprising:
  - 5 associating the line identifier with a port assigned to a subscriber, the line identifier being usable to authenticate a service request;
  - storing the line identifier in a database;
  - receiving the service request from the subscriber on the port;
  - retrieving the line identifier from the database in response to the
- 10 service request; and
- transferring the line identifier to the service provider.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - 15 authenticating a subscriber identifier obtained from the service request; and
  - querying the database in response to the authenticated subscriber identifier to retrieve the line identifier therefrom.
3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
  - 20 authenticating the subscriber identifier at the service provider.
4. A method of authenticating a subscriber request for a service, comprising:
  - 25 receiving the subscriber request on a port of a remote server;
  - transferring a subscriber identifier obtained from the subscriber request to a provider of the service;
  - transferring to the provider a line identifier corresponding to the port; and
  - authenticating the service request based on the subscriber identifier
- 30 and the line identifier.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:  
authenticating the subscriber identifier; and  
querying a database in response to the authenticated subscriber  
5 identifier to retrieve the line identifier therefrom.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein the subscriber identifier and the  
line identifier are transferred together to the provider.

10 7. The method of claim 4, wherein the subscriber identifier in the line  
identifier are transferred separately to the provider.

8. The method of claim 4, wherein the service request is authenticated  
by the provider.

15 9. A system for providing a line identifier to a service provider,  
comprising:

means for associating the line identifier with a port assigned to a  
subscriber, the line identifier being usable to authenticate a service request;

20 means for storing the line identifier in a database;  
means for receiving the service request from the subscriber on the  
port;

means for retrieving the line identifier from the database in  
response to the service request; and

25 means for transferring the line identifier to the service provider.

10. The system of claim 9, further comprising:  
means for authenticating a subscriber identifier obtained from the  
service request; and  
5 means for querying the database in response to the authenticated  
subscriber identifier to retrieve the line identifier therefrom.
11. The system of claim 9, further comprising:  
means for authenticating the subscriber identifier at the service  
10 provider.
12. A remote access server, comprising:  
a port for communicating with a subscriber;  
a management interface for associating a line identifier with the  
15 port;  
a database, operatively associated with the management interface,  
for storing the line identifier;  
a database interface for retrieving the line identifier in response to  
receiving a subscriber service request on the port; and  
20 a network interface for transferring the retrieved line identifier to a  
service provider.
13. The remote access server of claim 12, wherein the database  
interface queries the database in response to an authenticated subscriber  
25 identifier to retrieve the line identifier from the database.
14. The remote access server of claim 12, wherein the network  
interface transfers a subscriber identifier to the service provider.

15. The remote access server of claim 14, wherein the subscriber identifier and the line identifier are transferred together to the service provider.

5 16. The remote access server of claim 14, wherein the subscriber identifier and the line identifier are transferred separately to the service provider.

17. A system for accessing a network service, comprising:  
a provider of the network service;  
10 a subscriber unit configured to present a user interface for selecting the network service;  
an access server including a port for communicating with the subscriber unit and for associating a line identifier with the subscriber unit;  
a database, operatively associated with the access server, for  
15 storing the line identifier;  
a database interface for retrieving the line identifier in response to receiving a request for the network service on the port; and  
a network for transferring the retrieved line identifier to the provider;  
wherein the provider authorizes access to the service based on the  
20 retrieved line identifier.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the network transfers a subscriber identifier to the provider and the provider authorizes access to the service based on subscriber identifier and the retrieved line identifier.

25 19. The system of claim 18, wherein the subscriber identifier and the line identifier are transferred together to the provider.

20. The system of claim 18, wherein the subscriber identifier and the line identifier are transferred separately to the provider.

- 5        21. A computer-readable medium storing a computer program for directing a programmable device to perform a method comprising:  
                associating the line identifier with a port assigned to a subscriber,  
                the line identifier being usable to authenticate a service request;  
                storing the line identifier in a database;  
10        receiving the service request from the subscriber on the port;  
                retrieving the line identifier from the database in response to the service request; and  
                transferring the line identifier to the service provider.
- 15        22. A system for providing access to a network service, comprising:  
                a service provider for providing the network service;  
                a subscriber unit having a user interface for selecting the network service;  
                a remote access server including a port for communicating with the subscriber unit and a management interface for associating a line identifier with the subscriber unit;  
                a broadband network connecting the subscriber unit and the remote access server;  
                a database, operatively associated with the access server, for  
25        storing the line identifier;  
                a database interface for retrieving the line identifier in response to receiving a subscriber request for the network service on the port; and  
                a network for transferring to the service provider the retrieved line identifier and a subscriber identifier obtained from the subscriber request;  
30        wherein the service provider authorizes access to the network service based on the retrieved line identifier and the subscriber identifier.